

Today, Rep. Braley introduced a bill that would improve access to comprehensive health care services.

Â

Washington, DC - As Congress works to reform our nation's health care system, Rep. Braley (D-Iowa) today introduced a bill to increase access to comprehensive health care services. Braley's legislation creates a new loan repayment program to provide incentives for health care professionals who practice in areas with a shortage of specialty health care providers, such as Iowa.

"My bill takes an important step to increase Iowans' access to the comprehensive health care services they need," Braley said. "This important legislation will provide more incentives than ever for providers to practice in critically underserved places and will improve many Iowans' and Americans' access to quality, affordable healthcare. By providing incentives for health care specialists to practice in Iowa, we can ensure that Iowans have access to the highest quality health care."

The legislation, called the Access to Frontline Health Care Act of 2009, would ensure access to comprehensive health care services by creating a new Frontline Providers Loan Repayment Program. Under the program, health care providers would commit to practice in a geographic area with a shortage of specialty health care professionals for at least two years in exchange for student loan repayment assistance. To qualify for the program, health care providers must be trained in the specialty area.

Frontline areas include a wide array of health specialties including general surgery, pharmacy and dietetics.